

# MEMO

**DATE:** August 18, 2003

**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee

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**RE:** Status of Air District State Implementation Plans (SIPs) In the SCAG Region, and Their Potential Implications for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

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## **Recommended Action:** Information Item

### **Summary:**

Based on the Latest Planning Assumptions stipulation of the Transportation Conformity Rule, SCAG is required to use updated emission budgets for all relevant criteria pollutants in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Prior to the Regional Council's (RC) action on conformity demonstration as part of the 2004 RTP approval process, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) must make an adequacy finding on these new emission budgets before they can be used by SCAG in the RTP. USEPA plans to complete its adequacy determination for these emission budgets by the first quarter of 2004.

The status of the various State Implementation Plan (SIP) elements relevant to the SCAG region is as follows:

- All SIP elements for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) have been submitted to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and approval by USEPA is expected in advance of the 2004 RTP.
- The SIP element for the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) is pending analysis being conducted by CARB and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD)
- SIP elements for the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) are pending the provision of information from CARB.
- The SIP element for the Imperial County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) is pending resolution of a court case challenging the Basin's proposed redesignation as an attainment area. The SIP element for the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB is still pending.

## Background:

There are four Air Basins in the SCAG region —the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB), the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB), the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), and the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). These are administered by five Air Districts—Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD), Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD), South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD).

For these various Air Basins there are 12 SIP elements, depending upon each District's non-attainment designation, for the various criteria air pollutants that exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)—namely, ozone (as represented by its two precursors: volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>)), carbon monoxide (CO), Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter less than 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>). These SIPs must be updated using the updated version of the emission factor model (EMFAC 2002), to establish current emission budgets. SCAG is working with the air pollution management agencies to ensure the timely availability of all emission budgets for the SCAG Region have been updated for the conformity finding as part of the 2004 RTP.

The following tabulations provide a summary of the current status of emission budgets by Air Basin:

<u>Air Basin</u>	<u>Emission Budgets Required</u>
South Coast (SCAB)	Ozone, NO <sub>2</sub> , CO, PM <sub>10</sub>
Ventura County (SCCAB)	Ozone
Coachella Valley (SSAB)	Ozone, PM <sub>10</sub>
Imperial County (SSAB)	PM <sub>10</sub>
Antelope Valley (MDAB)	Ozone
San Bernardino County (MDAB)	Ozone, PM <sub>10</sub>
Searles Valley (MDAB)	PM <sub>10</sub>

### South Coast Air Basin (SCAB)

#### *Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Extreme (2010)  
Carbon Monoxide – Serious (2000)  
PM<sub>10</sub> – Serious (2006)  
NO<sub>2</sub> – Maintenance (1995)

#### *Emission Budget Status: Submitted for Approval*

The SCAQMD has submitted its 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to CARB, with emission budgets for the two ozone precursors: VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>; as well as for CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. USEPA's budget adequacy finding is expected in advance of the 2004 RTP.

South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) (Ventura County)

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Severe (2005)

*Emission Budget Status: Pending*

The VCAPCD is currently working with CARB and SCAG to resolve some questions pertaining to the emission budget and its related attainment demonstration. Resolution is expected in advance of the 2004 RTP.

Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB)

San Bernardino County Portion (excluding Searles Valley)

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Severe-17 (2007)

PM<sub>10</sub> – Moderate (2000)

Searles Valley Portion

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

PM<sub>10</sub> – Moderate (1994)

Antelope Valley Portion

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Severe-17 (2007)

*Emission Budget Status: Pending*

The AVAQMD and the MDAQMD need to establish emission budgets for the two ozone precursors: VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>; as well as for PM<sub>10</sub> for various portions of the areas under their jurisdiction.

Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB)

Coachella Valley Portion

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Severe-17 (2007)

PM<sub>10</sub> – Moderate (2006)

Imperial County Portion

*Non-attainment Classification (Attainment Year):*

Ozone – Transitional (no SIP required)

PM<sub>10</sub> – Moderate (1994)

*Emission Budget Status: Submitted/Pending*

The SCAQMD has submitted the PM<sub>10</sub> SIP for the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB to CARB, and USEPA's budget adequacy finding is expected in advance of the 2004 RTP.

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The ozone emission budget for the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB has not yet been completed.

The ICAPCD is awaiting resolution of a law suit filed by Earth Justice, an environmental group, challenging USEPA's finding that the county would have attained the PM<sub>10</sub> standard by the designated date of December 31, 1994, but for emissions transported from Mexico. Imperial County had demonstrated through extensive complex modeling that the county would be in attainment of the PM<sub>10</sub> standard, absent emissions from Mexico. If the Court rules against USEPA, Imperial County would be redesignated as a Serious Non-attainment area, and would be required to provide a new and more rigorous SIP for PM<sub>10</sub>.